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15 July 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHAIRMAN, ICAPS

SUBJECT: Proposed NSCID on Security of Information and
Avoidance of Publicity

1. It seems to me that paragraph 5 of the proposed NSCID should be reworded as follows:

"5. In dissemination to agencies outside the IAC, the DCI shall be guided by the principle that information of a covert or sensitive nature, whether as an unevaluated report or as a constituent of a finished intelligence study or estimate, shall go only to those who need to know rather than to those who may desire to know."

2. My point is that the "information" covered by the directive should be qualified by such a phrase as "of a covert or sensitive nature" in order that there may be no impediment to appropriate dissemination of intelligence by-products which carry no threat to the national security, which would be of definite value to non-IAC agencies or even to the general public, and whose release would tend to distract public attention from the "cloak and dagger" aspects of intelligence and focus it on the less glamorous but equally important research functions and public services which CIA performs for the taxpayers.

3. The above point was clearly expressed by the Dulles Report, and has been acted upon in at least one instance by OCD with the DCI's approval. This was the dissemination of International Health Reports, [redacted], to several non-IAC agencies and to certain commercial airlines.

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Assistant Director
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Info: DCI
Executive ✓
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